

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC. 20554**

In the Matter of

Accelerating Wireless Broadband
Deployment by Removing Barriers to
Infrastructure Investment

WC Docket No. 17-84

**JOINT COMMENTS OF EMF SAFETY NETWORK
AND ECOLOGICAL OPTIONS NETWORK**

EMF Safety Network and Ecological Options Network filed comments in WT Docket 17-84 on June 9, 2017¹. These additional comments clarify the importance of why copper lines must be retained and maintained.

1. Copper landline phones save lives.

Copper landlines work when the power is out, fiber optics don't. In an emergency, with no power, no phone, and no 911 services, people will be at risk for life threatening situations. Who will pay the price for this aggressive push to end copper landline service?

- Seniors
- Businesses
- People with Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS)
- Low income people
- Residents of rural areas
- Hearing impaired
- People who want a choice

¹ <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/106092268520845/Joint%20parties%20FCC%20Comments%2017-79.pdf>

2. Copper landline phone systems cost less.

A fiber optic VOIP system requires internet service, computer, router, VOIP device, plus a phone. A VOIP system costs more to purchase, maintain, and replace worn out devices. A VOIP uses more electricity. A copper landline phone is simpler and more cost effective because it only requires a phone.

3. Cell phones are not safe substitutes for corded copper landline phones.

Independent peer-reviewed published science links cell phone radiation to the risk of adverse health impacts, including cancer.

- The National Toxicology Program found an increase in brain tumors from exposure to cell phone radiation. <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/results/areas/cellphones/index.html>
- The BioInitiative Report reviewed 2000 peer reviewed published studies and found an increased risk of brain cancer from cell and cordless phone radiation. www.bioinitiative.org
- Independent scientists who have published peer-reviewed studies warn about the safety risks of cell phones, cell towers and other devices that emit radiation. www.emfscientist.org
- IARC, an arm of the World Health Organization classifies cell phone radiation as a possible carcinogen. http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208_E.pdf
- Brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in children age 0-14 <http://www.abta.org/about-us/news/brain-tumor-statistics/>

Respectfully submitted on June 14, 2017 by:

/s/ _____

Sandi Maurer, Director
EMF Safety Network
PO Box 1016
Sebastopol CA 95473

/s/ _____

Mary Beth Brangan, Co-Director
Ecological Options Network
PO Box 1047
Bollinas CA 94924